

## 21. CRETACEOUS NANNOFOSSILS FROM THE NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARGIN, DEEP SEA DRILLING PROJECT LEG 79<sup>1</sup>

George E. Wiegand, Department of Geology, Florida State University<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

Deep Sea Drilling Project Leg 79 recovered Cretaceous nannofossils at two localities, Sites 545 and 547. Species diversity of the Cretaceous coccoliths is high, and the assemblages range in age from early Valanginian–early Hauterivian to latest Maestrichtian.

Site 545 and portions of Site 547 can be combined to form a composite section ranging from the upper Aptian–lower Albian to the middle to upper Cenomanian. As defined by nannofossil events, this section represents a complete record of sedimentary deposition. The interval appears to be the most extensive and complete Cretaceous section yet drilled off the Northwest African margin.

The Campanian and Maestrichtian sediments found at Site 547 (Hole 547A) are the youngest Cretaceous strata found on the Northwest African margin. Like the middle Cretaceous sections, the uppermost Maestrichtian of this interval also represents a complete record of sedimentation.

### INTRODUCTION

During Deep Sea Drilling Project Leg 79, Sites 544, 545, 546, and 547 were drilled west of Morocco (Fig. 1). *In situ* Cretaceous sediments were recovered only from Sites 545 and 547 (Holes 547A and 547B). A primary goal of the cruise was to record the subsidence history of the carbonate platform seaward of the 3-km-high Mazagan Escarpment. It was hoped that calcareous nannofossils, foraminifers, and other fossil groups could be used to determine the age of sediments overlying the carbonate sequence and place age limits upon the drowning of the platform.

Situated on a slope at the base of the Mazagan Escarpment, Site 545 was positioned not only to investigate the subsidence of the platform but also to drill a Cretaceous sequence that recorded the erosional history of the steep escarpment.

Site 547 was located on the flank of a fault-controlled block, where it was believed that a thick Cretaceous sequence would be present. The sequence was drilled to recover a Cretaceous interval for biostratigraphic determinations and possibly to bracket more precisely unconformities dated in the Moroccan Basin on Leg 50. The recovery of Cretaceous sediments younger than Cenomanian was considered possible because of the thickness of the sequence. (No such sediments had previously been found on the Northwest African margin seaward of the continental shelf.)

Sediments from Sites 545 and 547 yielded Cretaceous nannofossils ranging in age from early Valanginian–early Hauterivian to late Maestrichtian. Table 1 lists the nannofossil taxa studied in this chapter. The majority of the bibliographic references for these taxa are given in Loeblich and Tappan (1966, 1968, 1969, 1970a, 1970b,

1971, 1973) and in Heck (1979a, 1979b, 1980a, 1980b, 1981a, 1981b, 1982a, 1982b, 1983). References not found therein are listed in the references of this paper.

### METHODS AND PROCEDURES

For this calcareous nannofossil study, standard smear slides of all samples were examined on the light microscope. The smear slides were prepared as uniformly as possible, to allow more accurate abundance estimates. If flocculation of sediments occurred, a small amount of 3–5% Calgon [(NaPO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>] solution was added to the slide to aid in dispersion.

Each smear slide was studied on the light microscope by making approximately 10 traverses across the slide at 1562× magnification. For each of the samples analyzed two abundances are given: the abundance of calcareous nannofossils on the slide and the abundance of individual species, as follows

Nannofossil specimens per field of view	Individual species abundance per field of view
A = abundant; 70+	D = very abundant; 10 or more specimens
V = very common; 50–69	A = abundant; 6 to 9 specimens
C = common; 30–49	V = very common; 3 to 5 specimens
F = few; 10–29	C = common; 1 to 2 specimens
R = rare; 1–9	M = moderately common; 1 specimen every 2–40 fields
E = essentially barren; 1 specimen every 2 or more fields,	F = few; 1 specimen every 41–60 fields
B = barren; no nannofossils observed	R = rare; 1 specimen every 61–120 fields
	P = present; 1 specimen every 121 or more fields

In Tables 2 and 3 abundances of reworked nannofossils are listed in lower-case letters; *in situ* taxa are in capital letters.

Preservation of the calcareous nannofossils in each sample was recorded as follows:

G = Good; specimens show little or no dissolution and/or overgrowth;

<sup>1</sup> Hinz, K., Winterer, E. L., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP, 79*; Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office).

<sup>2</sup> Address: Department of Geology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306.

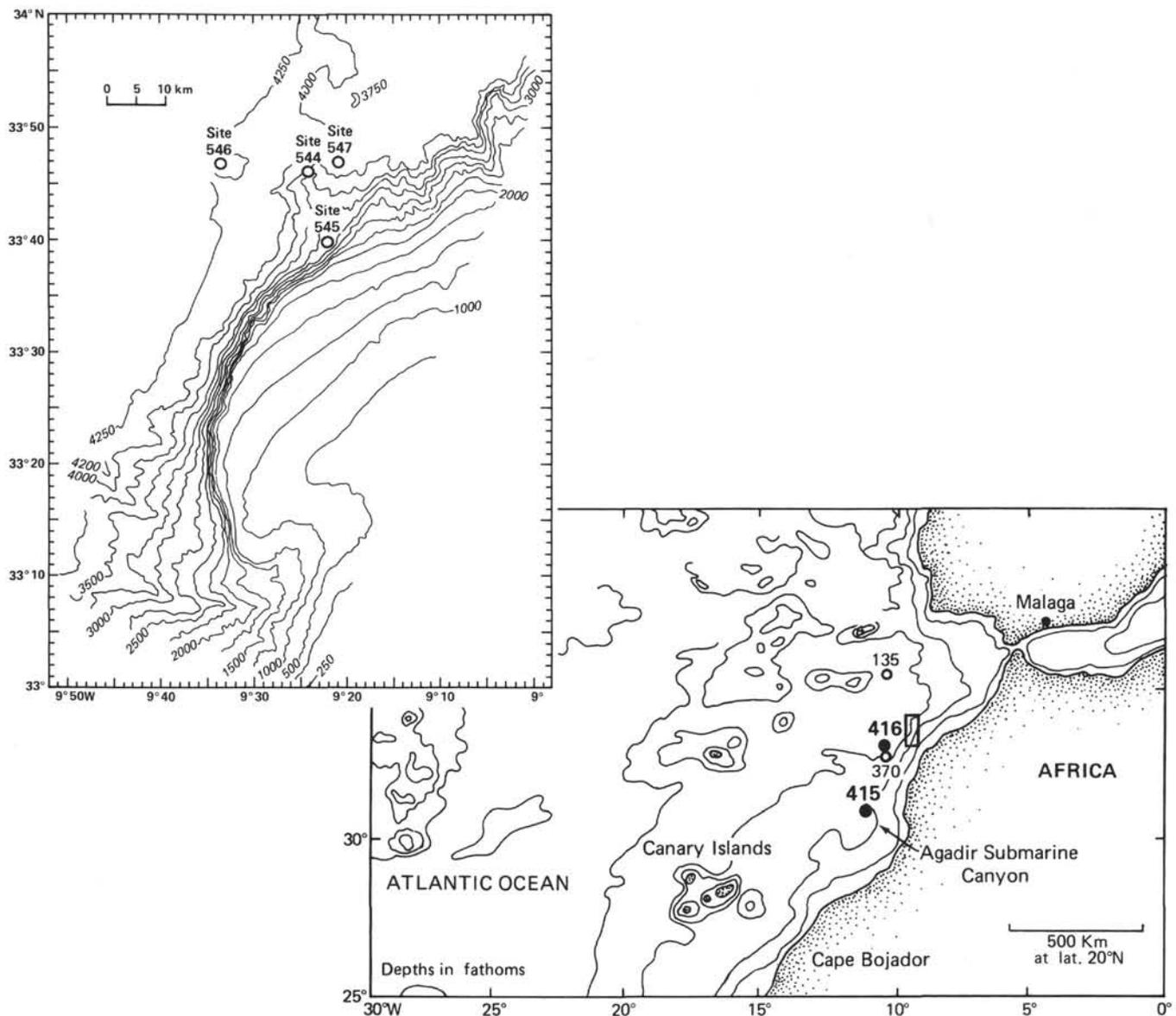


Figure 1. Location of sites drilled on Leg 79 and other DSDP legs recovering Cretaceous sediments off the Northwest African margin.

M = Moderate; specimens show some dissolution and/or overgrowth, but identification of taxa is possible;

P = Poor; specimens show extreme dissolution and/or overgrowth; identification of taxa usually possible but sometimes impaired.

### CALCAREOUS NANNOFOSSIL BIOSTRATIGRAPHY AND ZONATION

The Cretaceous nannofossils of Leg 79 could not be zoned according to a single published zonation: some zones were difficult to determine and biostratigraphic resolution was lacking within others. Thus, a combination of three published zonations is used here: Thierstein (1973), from the earliest Berriasian to the late Albian; Manivit et al., (1977), from the late Albian to the late Turonian; and Verbeek (1977), from the late Turonian to the end of the Maestrichtian. The combined zonal scheme is illustrated in Figure 2. Even with this combination of zonations, other datum levels, including some of Perch-Nielsen (1979), were incorporated within zones

to increase resolution or to improve zonal utility. This chapter uses a different zonal approach than that used in the site chapters for Leg 79.

The *Nannoconus colomii* Zone and the *Cretarhabdus crenulatus* Zone of Thierstein (1973) are not recognized in the samples studied. These zones range in age from the earliest Berriasian to the early Valanginian.

#### *Calcicalathina oblongata* Zone

**Author.** Thierstein (1971), modified by Thierstein (1973).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *C. oblongata* to the first occurrence of *Lithraphidites bollii*.

**Age.** Early Valanginian–early Hauterivian.

**Remarks.** This zone is recognized in only two samples, 547B-6-1, 139–140 cm and 547B-6-2, 6–7 cm. The first sample contains *Diadorhombus rectus* which, according to Thierstein (1976), ranges within the mid-Valanginian. Wind and Čepék (1979) questioned this limited

Table 1. Nannofossil species considered in this study, listed alphabetically by specific name.

*Corollithion achylosum* (Stover) Thierstein, 1971  
*Ceratolithoides aculeus* (Stradner) Prins and Sissingh in Sissingh, 1977  
*Lithraphidites acutum* ssp. *eccentricum* Watkins (in press)  
*Braarudosphaera africana* Stradner, 1961  
*Lithraphidites alatus* Thierstein, 1972  
*Axopodorhabdus albianus* (Black) Wind and Wise, 1976  
*Hayesites albiensis* Manivit, 1971  
*Crucicribrum anglicum* Black, 1973  
*Vekshinella angusta* (Stover) Verbeek, 1977  
*Rhagodiscus angustus* (Stradner) Reinhardt, 1971  
*Reinhardtites anthophorus* (Deflandre) Perch-Nielsen, 1968  
*Rhagodiscus asper* (Stradner) Reinhardt, 1967  
*Markalius astroporus* (Stradner) Hay and Mohler, 1967  
*Watznaueria barnesae* (Black) Perch-Nielsen, 1968  
*Microrhabdulus belgicus* Hay and Towe, 1963  
*Cylindralithus biarcus* Bukry, 1969  
*Flabellites biforaminis* Thierstein, 1973  
*Watznaueria biporta* Bukry, 1969  
*Discorhabdus biradiatus* (Worsley) Thierstein, 1973  
*Watznaueria britannica* (Stradner) Reinhardt, 1964  
*Amphizygus brooksii* Bukry, 1969  
*Lithraphidites carniolensis* Deflandre, 1963  
*Cruciellipsis chiastia* (Worsley) Thierstein, 1972  
*Speetonia colligata* Black, 1971  
*Nannoconus colomii* (deLapparent) Kamptner, 1938  
*Micula concava* (Stradner) Bukry, 1969  
*Cretarhabdus conicus* Bramlette and Martini, 1964  
*Grantarhabdus coronadventis* (Reinhardt) Grün, 1975  
*Cretarhabdus crenulatus* Bramlette and Martini, 1964  
*Prediscosphaera cretacea* (Arkhangelsky) Gartner, 1968  
*Cruciellipsis cuvillieri* (Manivit) Thierstein, 1971  
*Arkhangelskiella cymbiformis* Vekshina, 1959  
*Microrhabdulus decoratus* Deflandre, 1959  
*Tetrapodorhabdus decorus* (Deflandre) Wind and Wise, 1977  
*Micula decussata* Vekshina, 1959  
*Axopodorhabdus dietzmanni* (Reinhardt) Wind and Wise, 1977  
*Zygodiscus diplogrammus* (Deflandre) Gartner, 1968  
*Cribrosphaerella ehrenbergii* (Arkhangelsky) Deflandre, 1952  
*Biscutum ellipticum* (Gorka) Grün and Allemann, 1975  
*Nannoconus elongatus* Bronnimann, 1955  
*Parhabdololithus embergeri* (Noël) Stradner, 1965  
*Zeughrabdodus erectus* (Deflandre) Stradner, 1965  
*Eiffellithus eximius* (Stover) Perch-Nielsen, 1968  
*Eprolithus floralis* (Stradner) Stover, 1966  
*Scapholithus fossilis* Deflandre, 1954  
*Marthasterites furcatus* (Deflandre) Deflandre, 1959  
*Tranolithus gabalus* Stover, 1966  
*Chiastozygus garrisonii* Bukry, 1969  
*Quadrum gartneri* Prins and Perch-Nielsen in Manivit et al., 1977  
*Corollithion geometricum* (Gorka) Manivit, 1971  
*Quadrum gothicum* (Deflandre) Prins and Perch-Nielsen in Manivit et al., 1977  
*Lithastrinus grillii* Stradner, 1962  
*Lithraphidites helicoideus* (Deflandre) Deflandre, 1963  
*Braarudosphaera hockwoldensis* Black, 1973  
*Sollasites horticus* (Stradner, Adamiker, and Maresch) Black, 1968  
*Micrantholithus hoschulzi* (Reinhardt) Thierstein, 1971  
*Bidiscus ignotus* (Gorka) Lauer in Grün et al., 1972  
*Parhabdololithus infinitus* (Worsley) Thierstein, 1974  
*Markalius inversus* (Deflandre) Bramlette and Martini, 1964  
*Rucinolithus irregularis* Thierstein, 1972  
*Ceratolithoides kamptneri* (Bramlette and Martini) Verbeek, 1976b  
*Broinsonia lacunosa* Forchheimer, 1972  
*Stephanolithion laffittei* Noël, 1957  
*Diazmatolithus lehmani* Noël, 1965  
*Chiastozygus litterarius* (Gorka) Manivit, 1971  
*Cretarhabdus loriei* Gartner, 1968  
*Kamptnerius magnificus* Deflandre, 1959  
*Cyclagelosphaera margereli* Noël, 1965  
*Vagalapilla matalosa* (Stover) Thierstein, 1973  
*Conusphaera mexicana* Trejo, 1969  
*Braarudosphaera minute* Filewicz, Wind, and Wise in Wind and Wise, 1976  
*Micula mura* (Martini) Bukry, 1963  
*Quadrum nitidum* (Martini) Prins and Perch-Nielsen in Manivit et al., 1977  
*Gartnerago obliquum* (Stradner) Noël, 1970  
*Calicalathina oblongata* (Worsley) Thierstein, 1971  
*Micrantholithus obtusus* Stradner, 1963  
*Ahmuelerella octoradiata* (Gorka) Reinhardt, 1970  
*Tranolithus orionatus* Stover, 1966  
*Broinsonia parca* (Stradner) Bukry, 1969

Table 1. (Continued).

*Manivitella pemmatoidea* (Deflandre ex Manivit) Thierstein, 1971  
*Lithraphidites praequadratus* Roth, 1978  
*Micula prinsii* Perch-Nielsen, 1979  
*Corollithion protosignum* Worsley, 1971  
*Lithraphidites quadratus* Bramlette and Martini, 1964  
*Nannoconus quadriangulus* Deflandre and Deflandre-Rigaud, 1962  
*Nannoconus quadriangulus apertus* Deflandre and Deflandre-Rigaud, 1962  
*Diadorhombus rectus* Worsley, 1971  
*Ahmuelerella regularis* (Gorka) Verbeek, 1977  
*Braarudosphaera regularis* Black, 1973  
*Octocyclus reinhardtii* (Bukry) Wind and Wise, 1977  
*Corollithion rhombicus* (Stradner and Adamiker) Bukry, 1969  
*Retecapsa schizobrachiata* (Gartner) Grün, 1975  
*Cylindralithus serratus* Bramlette and Martini, 1964  
*Broinsonia signata* (Noël) Noël, 1970  
*Corollithion signum* Stradner, 1963  
*Arkhangelskiella specillata* Vekshina, 1959  
*Zygodiscus spiralis* Bramlette and Martini, 1964  
*Rhagodiscus splendens* (Deflandre) Verbeek, 1977  
*Braarudosphaera stenorheta* Hill, 1976  
*Vagalapilla stradneri* (Rood et al.) Thierstein, 1973  
*Gartnerago striatum* (Stradner) Forchheimer, 1972  
*Cretarhabdus surirellus* (Deflandre and Fert) Reinhardt emend. Thierstein, 1971  
*Eiffellithus trabeculatus* (Gorka) Reinhardt and Gorka, 1967  
*Quadrum trifidum* (Stradner) Prins and Perch-Nielsen in Manivit et al., 1977  
*Nannoconus truitti* Bronnimann, 1955  
*Eiffellithus turrisseiffeli* (Deflandre) Reinhardt, 1965  
*Biscutum* sp.  
*Chiastozygus* sp.  
*Corollithion* sp.  
*Lithistrinus* sp.  
*Lucianorhabdus* sp.  
*Seribiscutum* sp.  
*Stradnerlithus* sp.  
*Tetralithus* sp.  
*Zygodiscus* sp. 1  
*Zygodiscus* sp. 2  
*Zygodiscus* sp. 3  
*Zygodiscus* sp. 4 (small)  
 Genus et sp. indet. 1

range, suggesting that *D. rectus* may extend into the Hauterivian. With only one sample containing *D. rectus*, this study can add no new information on its range.

The following zones, from Thierstein (1973), are not recognized in the samples studied: *Lithraphidites bollii* Zone, *Micrantholithus hoschulzi* Zone, and *Chiastozygus litterarius* Zone. These range in age from the early Hauterivian to the early Aptian.

***Rhagodiscus angustus* Zone**

**Author.** Manivit (1971), modified by Thierstein (1973).  
**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *R. angustus* and/or *Eprolithus floralis* to the first occurrence of *Prediscosphaera cretacea*.

**Age.** Late Aptian–early Albian.  
**Remarks.** The first occurrence of *R. angustus*, in this study, is not coincident with the first appearance of *E. floralis* as reported by Manivit (1971) and Thierstein (1973), but is encountered in younger sediments (Table 2, later). Perch-Nielsen (1979) also reports that *R. angustus* was found in sediments younger than *E. floralis*. Thus, in this study, the lowest occurrence of *E. floralis* is used as the lower boundary of the zone.

*R. angustus* was found somewhat inconsistently throughout the intervals studied, especially in Holes 547A

Age (m.y.) Stages		Calcareous nannofossil zones	Calcareous nannofossil datums
70	Maestrichtian	<i>Micula mura</i> Zone	<i>M. prinsii</i>
		<i>Lithraphidites quadratus</i> Zone	<i>C. kamptneri</i> <i>M. mura</i> <i>L. quadratus</i>
80	Campanian	<i>Quadrum tritidum</i> Zone	<i>L. praequadratus</i>
		<i>Quadrum gothicum</i> Zone	<i>Q. tritidum</i>
		<i>Ceratolithoides aculeus</i> Zone	<i>Q. gothicum</i>
		<i>Broinsonia parca</i> Zone	<i>C. aculeus</i>
		<i>Zygodiscus spiralis</i> Zone to <i>Eiffellithus eximius</i> Zone	<i>B. parca</i>
90	Santonian	<i>Quadrum gartneri</i> Zone	<i>E. eximius</i>
	Coniacian		
100	Cenomanian	<i>Lithraphidites acutum</i> Zone	<i>Q. gartneri</i>
			<i>Gartnerago obliquum</i> Subzone
		<i>Eiffellithus turriseiffeli</i> Zone	<i>C. chiastia</i>
			<i>Cruciellipsis chiastia</i> Subzone
Albian	<i>Prediscosphaera cretacea</i> Zone	<i>L. acutum</i>	
		<i>Prediscosphaera spinosa</i> Subzone	
110	Barremian	<i>Hayesites albiensis</i> Subzone	<i>H. albiensis</i>
		<i>Eiffellithus turriseiffeli</i> Zone	<i>E. turriseiffeli</i>
120	Hauterivian	<i>Rhagodiscus angustus</i> Zone	<i>P. cretacea</i>
		<i>Chiasozygus litterarius</i> Zone	<i>E. floralis</i>
		<i>Micrantholithus hoschulzi</i> Zone	<i>C. litterarius</i>
130	Valanginian	<i>Lithraphidites bollii</i> Zone	<i>C. oblongata</i>
		<i>Calcicalathina oblongata</i> Zone	<i>L. bollii</i>
		<i>Cretrarhabdus crenulatus</i> Zone	<i>D. rectus</i>
		<i>Nannoconus colomii</i> Zone	<i>D. rectus</i>
Berriasian		<i>C. oblongata</i>	<i>C. oblongata</i>
		<i>C. crenulatus</i>	<i>C. crenulatus</i>
		<i>N. colomii</i>	<i>N. colomii</i>

Figure 2. Cretaceous nannofossil zonal scheme used in this chapter. Sources: Thierstein (1973), Manivit et al., (1977), and Verbeek (1977).

and 547B. Preservation did not seem to be a factor: in many samples where *R. angustus* was absent preservation was good. Varying environmental conditions may be responsible for the sporadic occurrences of this coccolith.

The zone is recognized in Samples 545-56-6, 64-65 cm to 545-47-4, 47-48 cm; it is not present in Holes 547A or 547B.

#### *Prediscosphaera cretacea* Zone

**Author.** Thierstein (1971), modified by Thierstein (1973).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *P. cretacea* to the first occurrence of *Eiffellithus turriseiffeli*.

**Age.** Early Albian–middle Albian.

**Remarks.** Manivit et al. (1977), unlike Thierstein (1973), distinguish *P. cretacea* from the smaller *P. columnata* and place the first occurrence of *P. columnata* at the level of the first appearance of *P. cretacea* according to Thierstein, 1973. Thus the *P. cretacea* Zone of Thierstein (1973) is equivalent to the *P. columnata* Zone of Manivit et al. (1977); both zones have the first occurrence of *Eiffellithus turriseiffeli* as the upper boundary datum. Following Thierstein, *P. columnata* is not separated from *P. cretacea* in this study.

This zone is recognized in the interval from Samples 545-47-3, 30–31 cm to 545-41-1, 42–43 cm. It is not present in Holes 547A or 547B.

#### *Eiffellithus turriseiffeli* Zone

**Author.** Thierstein (1971), modified by Manivit et al. (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *E. turriseiffeli* to the first occurrence of *Lithravidites acutum*.

**Age.** Late Albian–middle Cenomanian.

**Remarks.** Manivit et al. (1977) recognize two subzones within this zone: *Hayesites albiensis* and *Prediscosphaera spinosa* subzones.

#### *Hayesites albiensis* Subzone

**Authors.** Manivit et al. (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *Eiffellithus turriseiffeli* to the last occurrence of *H. albiensis*.

**Age.** Late Albian.

**Remarks.** This subzone is present from Samples 545-40-6, 78 cm to 545-38-3, 92–93 cm, and 547B-6-1, 39–41 cm to 547A-63-1, 77–78 cm.

#### *Prediscosphaera spinosa* Subzone

**Authors.** Manivit et al. (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the last occurrence of *Hayesites albiensis* to the first occurrence of *Lithravidites acutum*.

**Age.** Latest Albian—middle Cenomanian.

**Remarks.** This subzone is recognized from Samples 545-38-1, 92–93 cm to 545-30-1, 27–28 cm, and Samples 547-62-2, 77–78 cm to 547A-46-3, 32–33 cm.

#### *Lithravidites acutum* Zone

**Author.** Verbeek, in Manivit et al. (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *L. acutum* to the first occurrence of *Quadrum gartneri*.

**Age.** Middle Cenomanian–early Turonian.

**Remarks.** This zone is divided into two subzones by Manivit et al.: *Cruciellipsis chiastia* and *Gartnerago obliquum* subzones. Only the first of these is recognized here.

#### *Cruciellipsis chiastia* Subzone

**Authors.** Manivit et al. (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *Lithravidites acutum* to the last occurrence of *C. chiastia*.

**Age.** Middle Cenomanian–late Cenomanian.

**Remarks.** This subzone is recognized from Samples 545-29-2, 68–69 cm to 545-28-1, 9–10 cm, and Samples 547A-46-2, 32–33 cm to 547A-39-1, 10–11 cm.

The *Quadrum gartneri* Zone from Manivit et al. (1977) is not present in the samples studied. This zone and the preceding *G. obliquum* subzone range from the late Cenomanian to the late Turonian in age.

The following zones, from Verbeek (1977), were not present in the study material: *Eiffellithus eximius* Zone; *Marthasterites furcatus* Zone; *Broinsonia lacunosa* Zone; *Micula concava* Zone; *Rucinolithus hayi* Zone; *Zygodiscus spiralis* Zone; and *Broinsonia parca* Zone. These zones range from late Turonian to early Campanian in age.

#### *Ceratolithoides aculeus* Zone

**Author.** Verbeek (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *C. aculeus* to the first occurrence of *Quadrum gothicum*.

**Age.** Early Campanian–middle Campanian.

**Remarks.** This zone is found from Samples 547A-38-3, 12–13 cm to 547A-38-1, 134–135 cm; it is not present at Site 545.

#### *Quadrum gothicum* Zone

**Author.** Martini (1976), in Verbeek (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *Q. gothicum* to the first occurrence of *Q. trifidum*.

**Age.** Middle Campanian.

**Remarks.** This zone is recognized only from Samples 547A-37-4, 65–66 cm to 547A-36-2, 82–83 cm.

#### *Quadrum trifidum* Zone

**Author.** Verbeek (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *Q. trifidum* to the first occurrence of *Lithravidites quadratus*.

**Age.** Late Campanian–middle Maestrichtian.

**Remarks.** As defined by Verbeek (1977), the original upper limit of this zone was the early Maestrichtian, based on the first occurrence of *L. quadratus*. However, many authors, including Thierstein (1976), Sissingh (1977),

Roth (1978), and Perch-Nielsen (1979), place the first appearance of *L. quadratus* in the middle Maestrichtian. In this study, the first occurrence of *L. quadratus* is elevated to the middle Maestrichtian level at which Sisingh (1977) and Perch-Nielsen (1979) place it, and a first occurrence datum for *L. praequadratus* is then erected at the level of Verbeek's *L. quadratus* datum (early Maestrichtian). This leaves the *Quadrum trifidum* Zone with its original boundary datums but raises the upper boundary to the middle rather than lower Maestrichtian, thus extending the range of the zone. The *L. quadratus* Zone thus also retains its original boundary datums but is given a shorter range.

Samples 547A-36-1, 26–27 cm to 547A-35-1, 67–68 cm are assigned to the interval from the base of this zone to the *L. praequadratus* datum. No nannofossils were found in this zone above the *L. praequadratus* datum.

#### *Lithraphidites quadratus* Zone

**Authors.** Bukry and Bramlette (1970), in Verbeek (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *L. quadratus* to the first occurrence of *Micula mura*.

**Age.** Middle Maestrichtian.

**Remarks.** This zone is present only in Samples 547A-34-7, 14–15 cm to 547A-33-5, 49–50 cm.

#### *Micula mura* Zone

**Authors.** Bukry and Bramlette (1970), in Verbeek (1977).

**Definition.** Interval from the first occurrence of *M. mura* to the extinction of most Cretaceous calcareous nannofossils.

**Age.** Late Maestrichtian.

**Remarks.** To further divide the latest Maestrichtian, two datum levels of Perch-Nielsen (1979) are used within this zone. The datum levels are defined by the first occurrences of *Ceratolithoides kamptneri* and *Micula prinsii*.

Samples 547A-33-4, 119–120 cm to 547A-33-1, 86–87 cm are within the interval bounded by the base of the zone and the *C. kamptneri* first occurrence datum. The interval between the first occurrence of *C. kamptneri* and the first occurrence of *M. prinsii* is recognized in Samples 547A-33-1, 86–87 cm to 547A-33-1, 16 cm. Samples 547A-32, CC (16 cm) to 547A-32-4, 67 cm fall within the interval bounded by the first occurrence of *M. prinsii* and the extinction of most Cretaceous nannofossils. This zone is not recognized at Site 545.

#### Site 545 (33°39.86'N; 09°21.88'W; water depth 3142 m)

Site 545 was drilled northwest of the Mazagan Plateau, at the base of the Mazagan Escarpment. The Cretaceous sediments recovered are 276 m thick and consist predominantly of a greenish gray nannofossil claystone. Nannofossil diversity at this site is generally high. A range chart showing species abundance and distribution is given in Table 2.

The middle to upper Cenomanian (*Lithraphidites acutum* Zone, *Crucellipsis chiastia* Subzone) is present from Samples 545-28-1, 9–10 cm to 545-29-2, 68–69 cm (255–

274 m). The nannofossil abundances range from common to very common and preservation is good.

Mid-Cenomanian to upper Albian sediments (*Eiffelolithus turriseiffeli* Zone) are present from Samples 545-30-1, 27–28 cm to 545-40-6, 7–8 cm (274–379 m). The coccolith assemblages are very common to abundant and are well preserved.

The upper Albian to upper Aptian (*Prediscosphaera cretacea* Zone and *Rhagodiscus angustus* Zone) is recognized in Samples 545-41-1, 42–43 cm to 545-56-6, 64–65 cm (379–531 m). Preservation of the nannoflora is generally good with the abundances ranging from common to abundant. The lithology of Samples 545-56-1, 0 cm through 545-56-4, 40 cm is a muddy nannofossil ooze; this is different from the nannofossil claystone of the overlying Cretaceous sediments. Below this, in the lowest few meters of the core, a dolomitized clayey nannofossil chalk is found. Corresponding to this increase in dolomitization is a rapid decrease in the abundance and preservation of the nannofossil assemblages. Sample 545-56-6, 64–65 cm has a moderate preservation, rare specimens, and abundant dolomite rhombs. Core 57 is dolomitized limestone thought to be Middle–Late Jurassic in age.

#### Site 547 (33°46.84'N; 09°20.98'W; water depth 3939 m)

Site 547 was drilled on the northeastern flank of the same fault-controlled sialic block as Site 544. A total of 404 m of Cretaceous sediments were drilled at Site 547, which includes Hole 547A and Hole 547B (a reentry hole). The calcareous nannofloral diversity is typically high at this site. A range chart showing species abundance and distribution is given in Table 3.

The Maestrichtian and Campanian sediments, are composed primarily of greenish gray nannofossil chalk. The upper Maestrichtian (*Micula mura* Zone) is recognized in Samples 547A-32-4, 67 cm to 547A-33-4, 119–120 cm (~370–~379.5 m). This zone is further subdivided by the *C. kamptneri* and *M. prinsii* first occurrence datums, showing the continuity of the latest Maestrichtian at this site. The nannofossil assemblage has moderate to good preservation, and abundances vary from few to abundant.

Middle Maestrichtian sediments (*Lithraphidites quadratus* Zone) are found in Samples 547A-33-5, 49–50 cm to 547A-34-7, 14–15 cm (~379.5–393 m). Preservation is moderate to good and the abundance is generally common to very common. Reworking of older nannofossils is evident within some samples of this zone. The reworked taxa include *Broinsonia parca*, *Quadrum gothicum*, *Q. trifidum*, *Q. nitidum*, *Eiffelolithus eximius*; *Marthasterites furcatus*; and *Lithastrinus grilli*. The nannofossils *B. parca*, *Q. gothicum*, *Q. trifidum*, *L. grilli*, and *E. eximius* are found *in situ* beneath an unconformity between Cores 34 and 35 (Table 3). *M. furcatus* and *Q. nitidum* are not found in any sediments beneath the reworked interval, including those just above the extensive hiatus (between Cores 38 and 39) which marks the absence of the upper Cenomanian to lower Campanian. It could be expected that a taxon ranging only during the time of a hiatus might be found immediately above that

hiatus, but it is not likely that it would be found above a younger hiatus, as is the case here with *M. furcatus*. Neither *M. furcatus* nor *Q. nitidum* are found in sediments beneath the reworked interval, and it would appear that they were transported from outside the study area, possibly upslope from the site location. The other five reworked taxa may have come from the sediments beneath the hiatus or from outside the study area. Regardless of where these reworked taxa originated, it is clear that at least two horizons of coccoliths were eroded to provide the reworked nannofossil assemblage, because the stratigraphic range of *M. furcatus* (Coniacian to lower Campanian) does not overlap those of *Q. gothicum* (mid-Campanian to lower Maestrichtian) or *Q. trifidum* (upper Campanian to lower Maestrichtian). Toward the hiatus between Cores 34 and 35, reworked nannofossils become more common. This unconformity separates the *Lithraphidites quadratus* Zone (mid-Maestrichtian) from the older *Q. trifidum* Zone (late Campanian–early Maestrichtian). Samples 547A-35-1, 67–68 cm to 547A-36-1, 26–27 cm (393–~398 m) belong to the *Q. trifidum* Zone. Preservation is moderate to good, with abundances tabulated as very common.

The middle to lower Campanian (*Q. gothicum* and *Ceratolithoides aculeus* zones) is present in Samples 547A-36-2, 82–83 cm to 547A-38-3, 12–13 cm (~398–421.5 m). The coccoliths in this interval differ from the overlying Upper Cretaceous assemblages; preservation is generally poor to moderate and nannofossils are few to very common in abundance.

Coinciding with the hiatus between Cores 38 (*C. aculeus* Zone) and 39 (*L. acutum* Zone) is a lithology change from the overlying nannofossil chalk to nannofossil-bearing claystone beneath. Because of bioturbation, evidenced by burrows, younger coccoliths from the interval above the hiatus have been transported downward into Sample 547A-39-1, 10–11 cm. The transported nannofossil assemblage is reduced in both abundance and diversity from the *in situ* assemblage above.

Samples 547A-39-1, 10–11 cm to 547A-46-2, 32–33 cm (421.5–~490 m) are assigned to the *L. acutum* Zone, *Crucellipsis chiastia* Subzone of middle–late Cenomanian age. Preservation of the nannofossil assemblage is good, and specimens are very common to abundant. The main lithology of this interval is a grayish green nannofossil-bearing claystone, much like that of the Cenomanian to Aptian of Site 545.

The middle Cenomanian to the uppermost Albian (*Eiffelithus turriseiffeli* Zone) is represented in Samples 547A-46-3, 32–33 cm to 547B-6-1, 39–41 cm (~490–~772.5 cm). The mid-Cenomanian to uppermost Albian sediments (Cores 39 to 62) are generally composed of grayish green nannofossil-bearing claystone similar to that found above. The remainder of the upper Albian (Cores 547A-63 to 547B-6-1, 105 cm) consist predominantly of interbedded nannofossil mudstone and nannofossil-bearing claystone. It has been determined that little overlap occurs between Hole 547A and the reentry hole Hole 547B; Core 73 of Hole 547A correlates with Core 1 of Hole 547B (see Site 547 site chapter, this volume).

An apparent unconformity exists between Samples 547B-6-1, 39–41 cm (*E. turriseiffeli* Zone) and 547B-6-1, 139–140 cm (*Calcicalathina oblongata* Zone). The abundance of the nannofossil assemblage in Sample 547B-6-1, 139–140 cm (~773.4 m) is common, and preservation is moderate. Sample 547B-6-2, 6–7 cm (~773.6 m) has good preservation and very common specimens. Both samples are early Valanginian–early Hauterivian in age and correspond to the *Calcicalathina oblongata* Zone. Samples 547B-6-1, 139–140 cm, 547B-6-2, 6–7 cm, and 547B-6-3, 57–58 cm were taken from claystones interbedded with bioclastic wackestones and limestone conglomerates.

The age of Sample 547B-6-3, 57–58 cm (~775.6 m) is indeterminate because preservation was poor and specimens are few.

### Hiatuses

As indicated above, a number of significant hiatuses are present in these sections. The Cenomanian of Site 545 lies unconformably beneath lower–middle Miocene sediments. Another unconformity exists between the upper Aptian–lower Albian dolomitized sediments and the Middle–Upper Jurassic dolomite (see Site 545 site chapter, this volume). No other hiatuses are evident within the Cretaceous of this site.

The uppermost Maestrichtian of Hole 547A lies beneath sediments of early Danian age. However, the sequence spanning the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary is not continuous, since the *Biantholithus sparsus* Zone (Romein, 1977), earliest Danian, is apparently absent. A more detailed study of the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary drilled during this cruise is planned.

A hiatus in Hole 547A, between Samples 547A-34-7, 14–15 cm (middle Maestrichtian) and 547A-35-1, 67–68 cm (late Campanian–early Maestrichtian) spans a time of between 4 and 7 m.y. approximately, according to the absolute time scale (Fig. 2) utilized by Thierstein (1976).

The major hiatus, noted between Samples 547A-38-3, 12–13 cm (early–middle Campanian) and 547A-39-1, 10–11 cm (middle–late Cenomanian) represents 14 to 19 m.y., approximately and excludes the lowermost Campanian, Santonian, Coniacian, Turonian, and uppermost Cenomanian from the sedimentary record.

A disconformity lies between Samples 547B-6-1, 39–41 cm (upper Albian) and 547B-6-1, 139–140 cm (lower Valanginian–lower Hauterivian). The short interval (1 m) between the two samples represents some 22 to 37 m.y., suggesting the existence of one or more hiatuses. The presence of limestone beds between the samples makes it difficult to pinpoint precisely the position of the disconformity using nannofossil biostratigraphy, because the interval could not be studied by smear slides. Lower in the section, Sample 547B-6-2, 6–7 cm, of early Valanginian–early Hauterivian age, and Sample 547B-6-4, 47–48 cm, of Late Jurassic age, are also separated by a limestone sequence; thus it is again difficult to establish the position of a probable hiatus. This is especially true since the age of Sample 547B-6-3, 57–58 cm is undetermined.













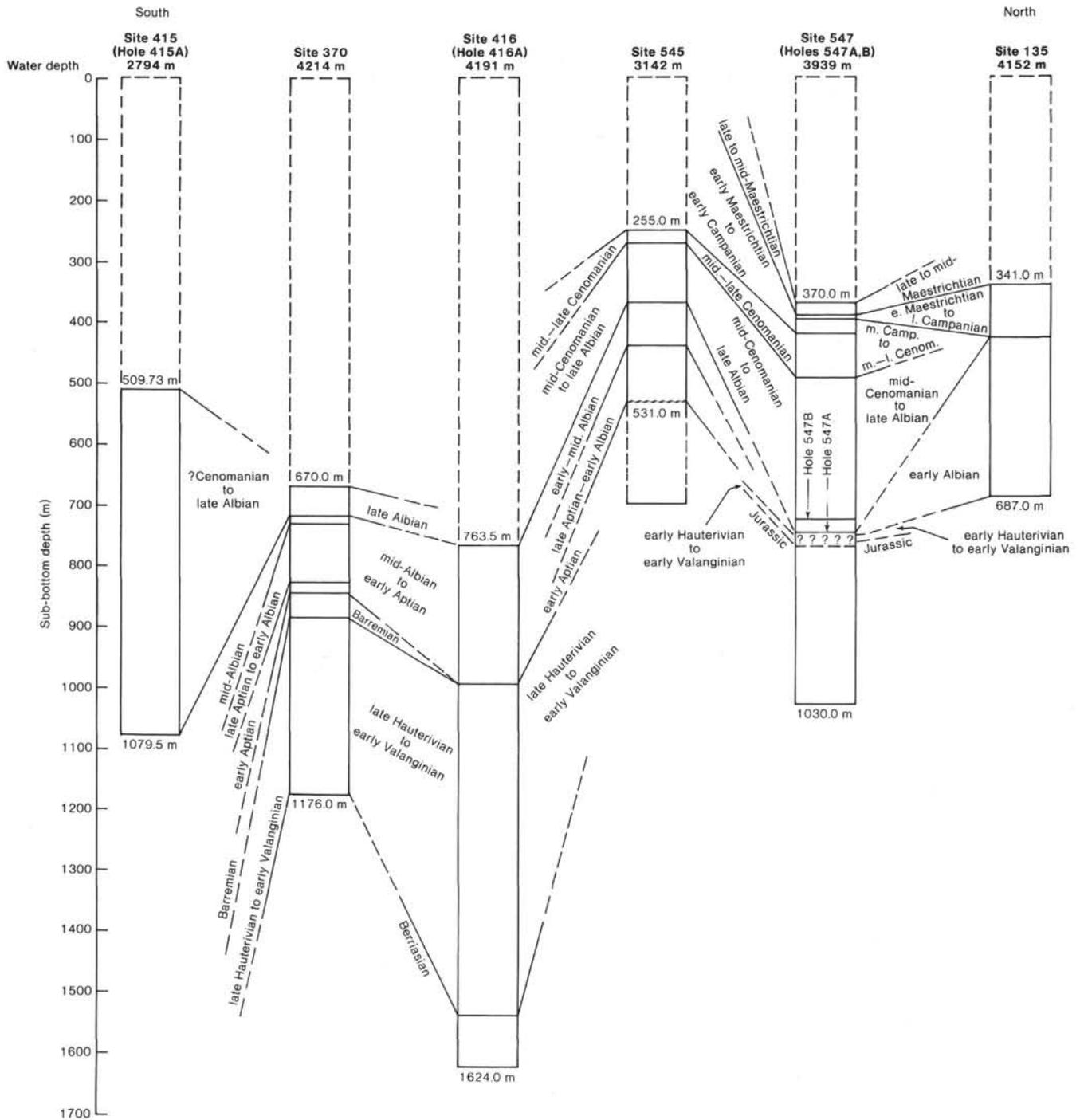


Figure 3. Comparison of Cretaceous stages using nanofossil assemblages from sites of DSDP Legs 14, 41, 50, and 79.

biostratigraphy. The hiatus between the lower Valanginian-lower Hauterivian and upper Albian in Section 547B-6-1 obscures the record, since a large amount of time is absent. The upper Albian nanofossil claystones overlying the unconformity apparently represent the youngest age of deep water sedimentation. The interbedded sequence beneath the unconformity is interpreted as having been deposited at moderate water depths (see Site 547 site chapter, this volume). It appears that between the early Valanginian-early Hauterivian and the late Albian, the platform subsided to depths where pelagic sedimentation could occur.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The author wishes sincerely to thank David K. Watkins, Dr. S. W. Wise, Jr., and James A. Bergen for their helpful comments and discussions, and David Watkins, S. W. Wise, and Hans Thierstein for their critical review of the manuscript. I thank Mary E. Parker and F. Amrisar Kaharoddin for help in the preparation of the text, Stephen Knüttel for assistance with photography, and Jill Arnold for typing the manuscript. Laboratory support for this study was provided by NSF grants DPP 80-20382 and EAR 80-25489.

**REFERENCES**

Bukry, D., and Bramlette, M. N., 1970. Coccolith age determinations Leg 3, Deep Sea Drilling Project. *In* Maxwell, A. E., von Herzen,

- R. P., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP*, 3: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office) 589-612.
- Čepek, P., 1978. Mesozoic calcareous nannoplankton of the eastern North Atlantic, Leg 41. In Seibold, E., Lancelot, Y., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP*, 41: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office), 667-687.
- Čepek, P., Gartner, S., and Cool, T., 1980. Mesozoic calcareous nannofossils, Deep Sea Drilling Project Sites 415 and 416, Moroccan Basin. In Lancelot, Y., Winterer, E. L., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP*, 50: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office), 345-351.
- van Heck, S. W., 1979a. Bibliography and taxa of calcareous nannoplankton. *Internat. Nannoplankton Assoc. Newsletter*, 1:AB1-5, A1-12, B1-27.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1979b. Bibliography and taxa of calcareous nannoplankton. *Internat. Nannoplankton Assoc. Newsletter*, 1:ABVI, A13-28, B28-42.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1980a. Bibliography and taxa of calcareous nannoplankton. *Internat. Nannoplankton Assoc. Newsletter*, 2:5-34.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1980b. Bibliography and taxa of calcareous nannoplankton. *Internat. Nannoplankton Assoc. Newsletter*, 2:43-81.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1981a. Bibliography and taxa of calcareous nannoplankton. *Internat. Nannoplankton Assoc. Newsletter*, 3:4-41.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1981b. Bibliography and taxa of calcareous nannoplankton. *Internat. Nannoplankton Assoc. Newsletter*, 3:51-86.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1982a. Bibliography and taxa of calcareous nannoplankton. *Internat. Nannoplankton Assoc. Newsletter*, 4:7-50.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1982b. Bibliography and taxa of calcareous nannoplankton. *Internat. Nannoplankton Assoc. Newsletter*, 4:65-96.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1983. Bibliography and taxa of calcareous nannoplankton. *Internat. Nannoplankton Assoc. Newsletter*, 5:4-13.
- Loeblich, A. R., Jr., and Tappan, H., 1966. Annotated index and bibliography of the calcareous nannoplankton. *Phycologia*, 5:81-215.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1968. Annotated index and bibliography of the calcareous nannoplankton II. *J. Paleontol.*, 42:584-598.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1969. Annotated index and bibliography of the calcareous nannoplankton III. *J. Paleontol.*, 43:568-588.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1970a. Annotated index and bibliography of the calcareous nannoplankton IV. *J. Paleontol.*, 44:558-574.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1970b. Annotated index and bibliography of the calcareous nannoplankton V. *J. Phycologia*, 9:157-174.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1971. Annotated index and bibliography of the calcareous nannoplankton VI. *J. Phycologia*, 10:315-339.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1973. Annotated index and bibliography of the calcareous nannoplankton VII. *J. Paleontol.*, 47:715-759.
- Manivit, H., 1971. Nannofossiles calcaires du Crétacé français (Aptien-Maestrichtien): Essai de biozonation appuyée sur les stratotypes [These Doct. d'Etat]. Paris: Fac. Sci. d'Orsay.
- Manivit, H., Perch-Nielsen, K., Prins, B., and Verbeek, J. W., 1977. Mid-Cretaceous calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy. *K. Nederl. Akad. Wet. B*, 80:169-181.
- Martini, E., 1976. Cretaceous to Recent calcareous nannoplankton from the Central Pacific Ocean (DSDP Leg 33). In Schlanger, S. O., Jackson, E. D., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP*, 33: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office), 383-423.
- Perch-Nielsen, K., 1979. Calcareous nannofossils from the Cretaceous between the North Sea and the Mediterranean. *Aspekte der Kriede Europas: IUGS Series A* (Stuttgart), 6:223-272.
- Romein, A. J. T., 1977. Calcareous nannofossils from the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary interval in the Barranco del Gredero (Caravaca, Prov. Murcia, S. E., Spain). *I. K. Nederl. Akad. Wet. B*, 80:256-279.
- Roth, P. H., 1978. Cretaceous nannoplankton biostratigraphy and oceanography of the northwestern Atlantic Ocean. In Benson, W. E., Sheridan, R. E., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP*, 44: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office), 731-759.
- Roth, P. H., and Thierstein, H. R., 1972. Calcareous nannoplankton: Leg 14 of the DSDP. In Hayes, D. E., Pimm, A. C., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP*, 14: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office), 421-485.
- Sissingh, W., 1977. Biostratigraphy of Cretaceous calcareous nannoplankton. *Geol. Mijnbouw*, 56:37-65.
- Thierstein, H. R., 1971. Tentative Lower Cretaceous calcareous nannoplankton zonation. *Eclogae Geol. Helv.*, 64:459-488.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1973. Lower Cretaceous calcareous nannoplankton biostratigraphy. *Abh. Geol. Bundesanst. (Austria)*, 29:1-52.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1976. Mesozoic calcareous nannoplankton biostratigraphy of marine sediments. *Mar. Micropaleontol.*, 1:325-362.
- Verbeek, J. W., 1977. Calcareous nannoplankton biostratigraphy of Middle and Upper Cretaceous deposits in Tunisia, Southern Spain and France. *Utrecht Micropaleontol. Bull.*, 16:1-157.
- Watkins, D. K., and Bowdler, J. L., in press. Cretaceous calcareous nannofossils from Deep Sea Drilling Project Leg 77, southeast Gulf of Mexico. In Buffler, R. T., Schlager, W., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP*, 77: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office).
- Wind, F. H., and Čepek, P., 1979. Lower Cretaceous calcareous nannoplankton from DSDP Hole 397A (northwest African margin). In von Rad, U., Ryan, W. B. F., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP*, 47, Pt. 1: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office), 221-255.

Date of Initial Receipt: November 9, 1983

Date of Acceptance: January 24, 1984

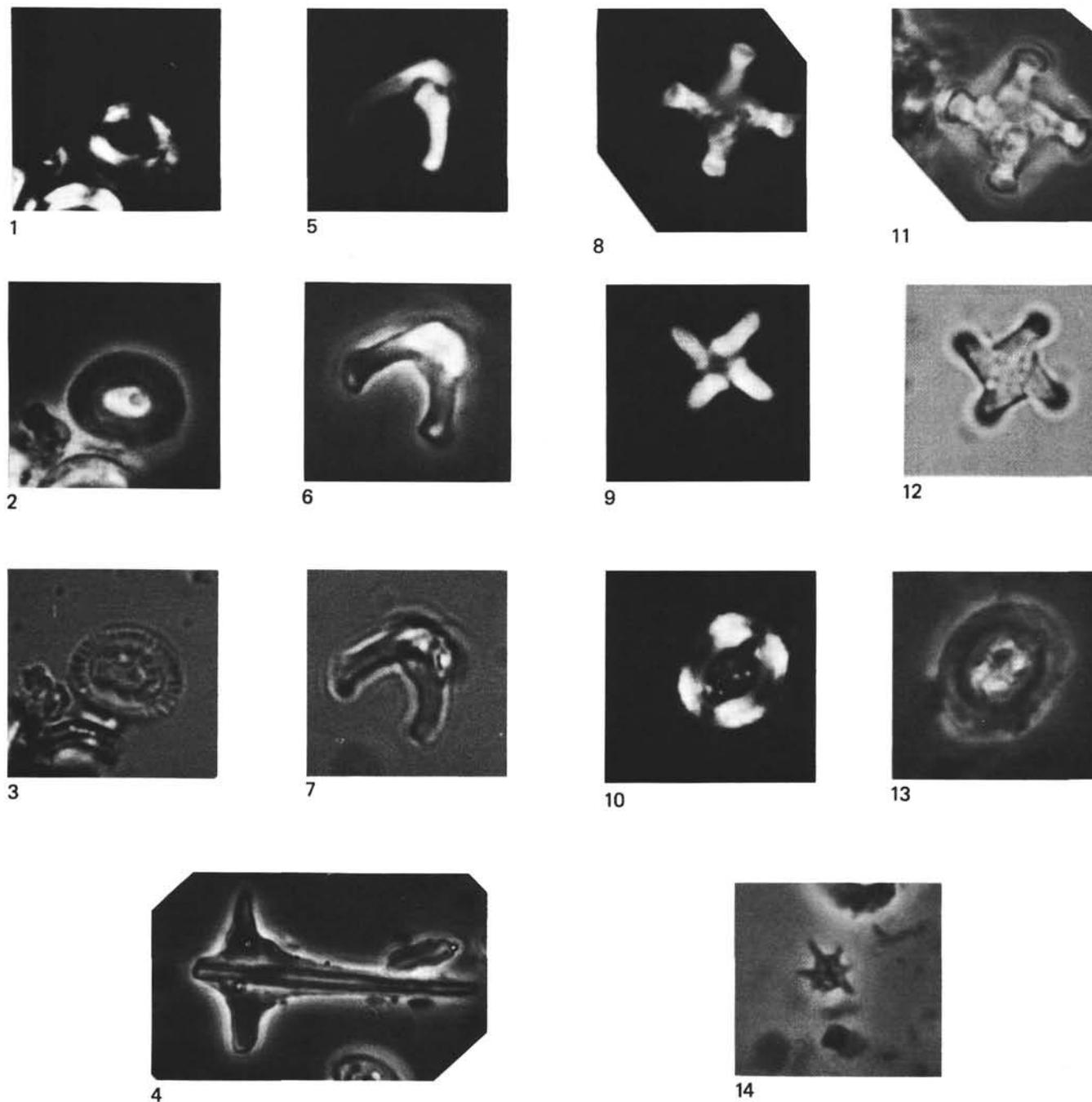


Plate 1. Light micrographs of Maestrichtian to Aptian nannofossils. (The abbreviations Pol, Ph and Tr denote cross-polarized, phase contrast, and transmitted light.) 1-3. Genus et species indet.,  $\times 2450$  (1, Pol; 2, Ph; 3, Tr), upper Aptian-lower Albian Sample 545-50-5, 51-52 cm. 4. *Lithraphidites acutum* ssp. *eccentricum*,  $\times 2250$  Ph, Cenomanian Sample 547A-42-3, 20-21 cm. 5-7. *Ceratolithoides kamptneri*,  $\times 3350$  (5, Pol; 6, Ph; 7, Tr), upper Maestrichtian Sample 547A-32-4, 70-73 cm. 8, 11. *Micula prinsii*,  $\times 3250$  (8, Pol; 11, Ph), upper Maestrichtian Sample 547A-32-4, 70-73 cm. 9, 12. *Micula mura*,  $\times 3300$  (9, Pol; 12, Tr), upper Maestrichtian Sample 547A-32-4, 70-73 cm. 10, 13. *Cruciellipsis chiastia*,  $\times 2350$  (10, Pol; 13, Ph), upper Aptian-lower Albian Sample 545-50-5, 51-52 cm. 14. *Haysites albiensis*,  $\times 3200$  Ph, upper Albian Sample 547B-2-5, 77-78 cm.